

IVISON, BLAKEMAN, TAYLOR & CO  
753 & 755 BROADWAY,  
NEW YORK.

April 19-1886

Prof Asa Gray  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir. We learned lately that overtures would be, or had begun to be made to Prof Coulter looking toward the preparation of a full series of school text-books on Botany. In view of that we wrote him asking to know if the connection already made with you and ourselves could not be extended and enlarged to mutual benefit and satisfaction. We wished to check and forestall any arrangement which threatened to bring him into rivalry although we knew he would not do anything which he had reason to expect detrimental to your interests. Incidentally we mentioned that we expected new primary books from you soon. ("How Plants" and

"1st Lessons" revised) but we suggested that a possible and suitable extension of his interests here might be in the line of a manual for the Mississippi Valley, meaning thereby the territory not covered by your books west of the river.

With this explanation we send you his reply and ask you to take it in confidence as from us, as we do not suppose he had any idea that we would send it to you. Our main object has been accomplished, to arrest any movement away from us and into the interests of our competitors until you and we could see if it is desirable to attach him more closely to our interests. Please give as early and careful consideration to the subject as convenient and return his letter with your reply. Very truly Yours  
Iverson, Blakeman, Taylor & Co.